Amendments to the Specification

Please replace the title beginning at page 1, line 1 with the following rewritten title:

--**MAGNETIC HEAD HAVING THERMALLY ASSISTED WRITE HEAD WITH HEATER ELEMENT[[,]] AND PROTECTIVE SACRIFICIAL LAYER ~~AND METHOD OF FABRICATION THEREOF~~**--

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 8, line 12 with the following rewritten paragraph:

-- The heating device 112 is next fabricated on top of the insulation layer 108, and Fig. 4 is a top plan view of such a heating device. As is depicted in Fig. 4, the heating device 112 may be fabricated using well known photolithographic techniques in which an electrically resistive heater element 116 and electrical leads 120 of the heating device 112 are successively fabricated. A detailed description of the fabrication of such a heating device is provided in U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/791,186 [[SJO9-2002-0096US1]], filed March 1, 2004, entitled: Magnetic Head Having Thermally Assisted Recording Device, and Method of Fabrication Thereof, the disclosure of which is incorporated herein as though set forth in full. Basically, the heating device 112 includes a central electrically resistive heating element 116 that is fabricated beneath the location in which the write head pole tip will subsequently be fabricated. It is desirable though not necessary that the central portion of the heating element 116 between inner edges 122 of the electrical leads 120 be approximately as wide as the track width of the pole tip because it is generally undesirable to heat portions of the magnetic media disposed on data tracks that are adjacent to the track that is being written upon. It is also desirable, though not necessary, that the heating element 116 be fabricated slightly away from the air bearing surface (ABS) 92 of the head, to limit corrosion of the heating element 116 and to avoid possible electrical discharge from the heating device 112 to the media disk during a writing operation.--